

WLP Civic Association Board Members

President: Ted Richardson
Secretary: Lynne James
Past President: Paula Djabbarah
Website: www.wlpca.org
Directors: John Abraham, Mohammad Bayegan, Marj Elhardt,

Vice President: Marion McDaniel
Treasurer: Jane Root
Newsletter: Gilda Bayegan & Mary McDaniel
Webmistress: Margaret Ann Bromberger
Clifton Iverson, Betty Moore, and Jane Van Santen

GREETINGS from the PRESIDENT

The **20th Annual Meeting of the WLPCA** is coming right up and we're looking forward to you being there and helping make this a very special occasion. This is the perfect time to meet new neighbors, renew old friendships, learn about recent neighborhood developments, and participate in maintaining, protecting, and improving our very special *Place*.

There will be presentations on **several very important neighborhood issues, committee reports, and the election of Officers and Directors to the 2011-2012 Board.** Please see *Announcements, page 2, for more information.*

The **Nominating Committee** has submitted its proposed slate of officers and directors for the next year which commences on July first (*details in Announcements, page 2*). Other nominations may be proposed from the floor at the meeting.

Two engineers from the **Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD)** will present a short video and some **very good news** about the long-awaited construction of the **permanent flood protection** system at what is commonly called "the Ditch". Important traffic issues will be discussed.

A **Houston Police Department (HPD)** investigator will report on numerous very positive arrests, recoveries of stolen property and prosecution developments related to area crimes.

The latest status of the redistricting of Houston will be presented by a representative of the **City of Houston Planning & Development Department.** The current redistricting plan shows that **both West Lane Place and Afton Oaks are proposed to be redistricted out of District G into District C.** Representatives of WLPCA and Afton Oaks are working together in an attempt to maintain our status in District G (see WLPCA email

Alert dated April 18, 2011). Our **Vice President Marion McDaniel** leads our efforts. Proposed redistricting, plans, schedules, and other details are at:
<http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/2011/index.htm>.

The **2011 Membership Drive** concludes on May 12th so if you have not done so already, please send your membership renewals or bring them to the Annual Meeting. Membership Co-Chairs **Jane Root** and **Jane VanSanten** are preparing the final drafts of the **WLPCA 2011 Membership Directory** so don't be left out – we need your support for very important WLPCA programs. See you on May 11th.

Ted Richardson
President, WLPCA

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

APRIL

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	J	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

MAY

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	(Annual Meeting)			

JUNE

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JULY

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31						

 = Tree waste; **J** = Junk waste pick up

Weekly household trash pick up on Mondays. NOTE: Recycling is every other Monday, on highlighted days in boxes. Please have your bins out on the curb by 7 am and in by 10 pm.

“Tree Waste” is defined as “clean wood waste such as tree limbs, branches, and stumps (lumber, furniture, and treated wood will NOT be accepted.)”

“Junk Waste” is defined as “items such as furniture, appliances, and other bulky material.”

WLPCA Membership. The Membership Committee reminds you that there is still **time to renew your membership**, or apply for a new membership before the Annual Meeting. Visit our website, www.wlpca.org to sign up. You also will have the opportunity to join or renew at the Annual Meeting on May 11.

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WLPCA Annual Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, May 11, 2011

TIME: 6:00 Wine and Hors d’Oeuvres
6:30 Meeting Begins

PLACE: Morton-Kuehnert Auctioneers & Appraisers
4901 Richmond Avenue

SPEAKERS: Representatives from
The City of Houston
Harris County Flood Control
Houston Police Department

VOTING: You will be asked to vote for the next WLPCA Board. The proposed slate is:

President - Ted Richardson
Vice President - Marion McDaniel
Secretary - Lynne James
Treasurer - Jane Root

Board Member (2011-2013) - Ann Iverson
Board Member (2011-2013) - Cynthia Trigg
Board Member (2011-2013) - Jane VanSanten

These Board members will continue to serve out their terms for the next year: John Abraham, Mohammad Bayegan, and Bettie Moore

Japanese Relief Drive. Joyce Lehrfeld, of Mid Lane, in association with the **Japanese Community Coalition of Houston**, has volunteered to collect funds to benefit the victims of the recent and ongoing disasters in Japan. If you would like to make a contribution, you may contact Joyce at TXEXMPT@aol.com (please include a reference to Japan in the subject line) or **713-306-6082**. Joyce tells us that all funds she collects will be sent directly to the **Japanese Red Cross**, and that **when she volunteered, the Japanese representative was moved to tears.**



As we reported in the past, several neighbors have experienced trouble as a result of confusion caused by the variations in spelling, and misinterpretations of our street names in West Lane Place. Thanks to the efforts of our president, **Ted Richardson**, the confusion is beginning to clear up. Ted contacted **HPD, the Houston Fire Department, City Planning, Mapquest, A T&T, Federal Express, HCAD, and CenterPoint Energy**, and all have agreed to change their records to accurately reflect the names “**Mid Lane**” and “**West Lane**.”

Unfortunately, we have not had as much success correcting street name discrepancies displayed in West Lane Place. **Some of our own private address plaques still misname our streets!**

If we would all display one consistent spelling, and one spelling only, we may be able to permanently end the confusion we have suffered. But, if our own residents continue to display address plaques with the variants of “Midlane,” “Mid Ln.” and “Westlane,” etc., the confusion may never end.

Please take a moment to look at the street number posted outside your house. Does your address plaque include the name of your street? If so, does your display read anything other than “Mid Lane” or “West Lane?” If it does, please change it! Unless, that is, you happen to live on Lana Lane, Hackberry Lane, Bash Place, or West Alabama! ♣

Crime

According to HPD, **West Lane Place is one of the safest neighborhoods in Houston.** Even so, we have our incidents. In response, we have organized a group of individuals to drive around the streets of West Lane Place, monitoring unusual circumstances and photographing anything that seems suspicious.

The more alert we are, the more effective we will be. **We need more volunteers to help us watch.**

If you are willing to help, contact **Mohammad Bayegan**, Security Committee Chair, **Mike Weingart**, Houston Police Department/West Lane Place Citizen Patrol Liaison, or **Ted Richardson**, President of WLPKA.

Mohammad Bayegan security@wlpca.org or **713-882-7300**

Ted Richardson president@wlpca.org or **713-963-0118**

Mike Weingart hpdliaison@wlpca.org or **713-882-7006**

**Major Work by WLP Artist, Joan Bohn
Commissioned by M.D. Anderson**

Our neighbor, **Joan Bohn**, is working hard in her **Winter Street studio** these days to meet a May 18 deadline. That’s when she must complete her latest painting, a large canvas that will hang in the lobby of **M.D. Anderson’s** newest building, currently under construction, on Bertner Street.

Joan lives on **West Lane** with her husband and former **WLPKA block committee chair, Pat Bohn**, just a few streets from where she grew up on Eastgrove Lane. She and Pat met as students at the University of St. Thomas, and married in 1968. Soon, Pat’s work took them away from Houston to live in Connecticut, then in New Orleans.

After they returned to Houston and their youngest son had left home, Joan and Pat were visiting Paris when Joan experienced an epiphany: she was overwhelmed by the art she saw, and decided to study art seriously. She returned to school, and graduated in 1995 from U of H with a degree in Painting and Art History. Now **she exhibits her works in Santa Fe, Aspen, Denver, Seattle, Dallas, and Houston.**

All of Joan’s works are abstract paintings in oil and mixed media. Her style was influenced by the contemporary painters, **Donald Sultan, Terry Winters, Pat Stier, and Richard Diebenkorn**, and she finds inspiration from nature, her reading, and the “act of painting itself.” **“I love the process of painting,”** she told us.

Joan’s painting for M. D. Anderson will be very large, four feet by eight feet. It is based on a work she exhibited in Santa Fe titled **“Begin Again”** that **was inspired by reincarnation, life emerging from “beautiful decay.”**



Joan and “Lauren’s Laughter,” her painting honoring the birth of her granddaughter.

The **Winter Street Studios** host “open studios” the **second Saturday of every month from 2 to 5 p.m.** Joan invites everyone in West Lane Place to drop in some time.

Winter St. Studios, 2101 Winter St., Houston, TX 77007 ♣

It's time now to fertilize our lawns for a thick carpet of grass this summer. Because we care about the health of everything and everyone in our garden, **we should know the products, and think about the chemicals they contain before we saturate our lawns with them.**

Products advertised as “**weed and feed**” usually contain fertilizers to “feed” your grass and **herbicides** to “**weed**” your lawn. These products can be found on the shelves of almost every garden center, so one might reasonably assume they are safe. But, **many people believe the herbicides included in these products are very, very dangerous, and may even be carcinogenic.** For example, the **herbicide 2,4-D included in many “turf builders” is the same chemical that was used in Agent Orange!** A study conducted by Cornell University, Michigan State, Oregon State, and the University of California found this chemical **increased cancer in dogs.** <http://pmep.cce.cornell.edu/profiles/extoxnet/24d-captan/24d-ext.html>. According to a September, 2004 article published in the scientific journal, *Pesticide News*, it has been found to **affect the nervous systems of humans and animals, damage kidney and liver function, increase the risk of diabetes, and contribute to birth defects.** http://www.pan-uk.org/pestnews/Actives/24d_pn65.htm What's worse, not only are chemical herbicides bad for *you*, but your **children and pets are at greater risk** because of their small size!

Eventually, the chemicals you put on your grass end up in your home, on your carpets and furniture, carried inside on the shoes or feet of anyone who walks outside. And, guess what, you don't have to eat grass to ingest the toxins. They are absorbed through your skin.

Roundup, the spray herbicide sold to kill weeds growing in sidewalk cracks, is another product that may pose very serious health threats. Results from studies in Denmark and Canada linked this product to **lymphoma, miscarriages, and ADD.** It also has been suspected of killing oak trees. Again, its availability and aggressive marketing might mislead one to assume it is harmless. www.dirtdoctor.com/organic/garden/view_org_research/id/60/

Why are the chemicals you use on your grass a neighborhood concern? Because they don't stay on your grass! In addition to exposing your children, your pets, and yourself to potential danger, **toxic chemicals you use in your garden expose your neighbors, too, when carried to their property by the water that drains from your yard.** So, even if they practice organic gardening methods, your neighbors still may be contaminated by your chemicals. There also is the issue of the environment. **“Weed n Feed” herbicides harm the birds, frogs, bees and lizards that live among the “weeds.”** Then, as these chemicals are carried away through drainage, they experience an afterlife, sickening the aquatic plants and creatures in our natural waterways, and eventually, the sea.

There are safe alternatives to these dangerous products. “Dirt Doctor,” Howard Garrett, the Texas author and host of a nationally syndicated radio show, suggests organic herbicides that contain corn gluten meal, either in granulated or powdered form, to replace harsh chemical weed and feed products.

www.dirtdoctor.com/dallasnews.php?id=201

Instead of Roundup, he offers a recipe for a **vinegar-based spray** to kill the weeds growing in your sidewalk.

www.dirtdoctor.com/organic/garden/view_question/id/778/

For links to these resources, please visit www.wlpca.org. (That's “**org**” as in “**organization**” and “**organic**.”)

The next time you treat your grass, please treat it right! When you buy gardening supplies, pay attention to the products' ingredients and make wise choices. If you use a lawn service, ask your gardener about the products he plans to use before they go on your soil. **Please be sure your garden is as safe as it is beautiful!**

Special thanks to organic nurseryman, **Matt Raney**, at **All in One Discount Nursery** for raising my awareness of these issues, and for his helpful research. www.allinonediscountnursery.com ♣

For the Birds

Bird Feeders. Because we are enlightened and aware people here in West Lane Place, we love birds and many of us maintain bird feeders. Feeders are an easy way for us to see the birds, but are they *good for the birds*? Perhaps not. **Jim Stevenson** warns members of the **Galveston Ornithological Society** that a feeder requires responsible oversight, or it can harm the birds we love.

Dirty bird feeders and bird baths spread diseases. Many documented cases of **massive bird die-offs** have been traced to contaminated feeders or water. **So, if you keep a feeder or a bird bath, you must keep it clean.**

Hummingbird feeders are particularly sensitive, since they contain sugar and quickly spoil in the heat. And, if you leave your feeder up too late in the fall, you may entice hummingbirds to stay too long and die in the cold.

Bird feeders also can harm birds when **predators are attracted to the birds that gather to feed.** Even here, hawks prey on pigeons and doves that have moved inside city limits. If you notice a hawk or another predator stalking birds, remove your feeder for a few days until the predator moves on to more lucrative hunting grounds.

Cats. The **American Bird Conservancy** estimates that **cats kill between 500 million and a billion birds every year** and are responsible for the **extinction of 33 species of birds.** As threatened as many of our native birds are, if your cat kills even one bird, it may be wiping out an endangered species. The **ABC urges all cat owners to keep their cats indoors**, and reminds us that **not only are the birds safer that way, but so are the cats!**

For more information, visit this March 2011 article: <http://abcnews.go.com/US/roaming-cats-kill-billion-birds-year-american-bird/story?id=13194701>